



Mark Rutherford School

# Nightingale ASC Centre News

“The school’s resource unit for pupils with autistic spectrum disorder continues to offer high quality provision for a small number of pupils, some of whom are in the sixth form. These pupils receive individually tailored programmes of work, some of which lead to formal qualifications and some of which are designed to prepare them for their next steps.” Ofsted, March 2016

## Introduction

What a busy academic year it has been for us all. For the first time ever we had a full house with sixteen students and twelve members of staff under the new management of Mr Gibbs. Everyone has worked very hard and is now looking forward to the summer holidays.



## Ark Farm

During September we were lucky to have a special visit from one of the leading mobile farms in the UK called Ark Farm. The tactile experience provided the perfect opportunity for students to access a range of animals in a safe environment. There were small ducks, bantam chickens, guinea pigs, 2 friendly Labradors, sugar gliders, pygmy African hedgehog, horse field tortoise and a barn owl. Aysha and TJ loved stroking the dogs and making them feel at home here in the Nightingale Centre. George even had a chicken sit on his head! Our student photographer Dom was able to capture some excellent photos from this experience.



## Life Skills

This year we focused on developing and changing the delivery of life skills. Life skills should be as practical as possible. These lessons provide a chance for the development of skills such as independent thinking, decision making, problem solving and relationship building. We visited the local cinema VUE to practise these skills by accessing public transport, budgeting at the cinema to purchase our treats and verbally interacting with members of the public. The films we have seen so far are Spiderman into the Universe, LEGO Movie 2 and How to Train your Dragon to name a few.

## Autism Awareness 2019

Autism is something we are proud to celebrate. This year we held our annual Autism awareness cake sale outside the Nightingale and raised over £160. The weather was perfect and the chocolate chip shortbread went down a treat! One particular student, Rio, was quite the entrepreneur. All money raised was donated to Autism Bedfordshire who are an independent charity dedicated to improving the lives of autistic people and their families across Bedfordshire.



## AQA Awards

The Unit Award Scheme offers learners the opportunity to have their achievements formally recognised with a certificate issued by AQA each time a short unit is successfully completed. Students who have been working hard to obtain awards are Anisha, Lusia, Jenson, TJ and Elliott. Completed units include road safety, oral hygiene, food hygiene and self harm and suicide awareness.

## Study Ladder

Year 8's James and Jenson have worked independently using computer technology to achieve certificates in a variety of core topics like mathematics, science and English by accessing Study Ladder. Both students enjoy this interactive and engaging programme which makes learning fun.

## RHS Gardening Award

James, Rio, Jenson and George have worked hard in the garden this year. Students have been completing the RHS School Gardening Award. As well as growing fruits and vegetables, students have also built a bug hotel and learnt about biodiversity and garden maintenance.



## What's Cooking?

They say the kitchen is where the home is and that cannot be more true this year. TJ and Elliott have concentrated on family meals and desserts this year where the ultimate task was to create a two course meal. TJ is pleased with his pastry skills and Elliot's lemon meringue was awarded with the dessert of the year. Lucia has been working on her confidence in the kitchen with Miss Francois where she has started making basic recipes like garlic bread and Greek pasta salad. Jacob and Jenson explored food from around the world by using unusual and exotic ingredients like coconut milk, lemongrass and basil to create their very own Thai Green Curry. Last but not least Alisha got fruity using healthy alternatives to create deliciously moist banana muffins. Well done to the chefs in the making.



## Goodbyes

This year we had only one Year 11 leaving us, Owen. Owen will be continuing his education at a local college studying NVQ Level 2 in Sports.

Unfortunately we had to say goodbye to five members of staff, Mrs Bowes, Mrs Gibson, Mr McPhillips, Mrs Proctor and Miss Bagnall. Miss Bagnall is venturing to Romania to teach. We wish them all the best with their future plans.



## And Finally...

Thank you to our sixth former Alex with supporting students in their science lessons and Jordan for taking the time out to visit us. It was lovely to catch up.

Good luck to Owen with his GCSE results in August.

Finally we hope everyone has a restful and enjoyable summer break and look forward to welcoming you back in September.

